

the public network that we have in this state is, in fact, autonomous from the political pressures because we have had a number of concerns raised, particularly in the Education Committee when we have had bills introduced attempting to put in a mechanism whereby we can have public radio across the rest of the state. And one of the arguments continually has been that there is the potential of influence from the political process on the program content of any public broadcasting. I don't think that we'd ought to allow any influence. I'd think we ought to make it very clear that we will not allow influence and that it ought to be very autonomous in its selection of programs. That is the intention of LB 205, to make it clear, put in some language and indicate that it's clear and at the same time, because there was some concern a couple of years ago with this particular bill that I had, that the commissioners and the public network would not be prohibited from covering the actions of the Legislature, would not be prohibited from having fund raising and auctions and those kinds of things that obviously they do have and need to have and should do. So we've attempted to change the language that would make sure that that is allowed. That is the intention of LB 205 and I do know that there are some members of the Legislature that have some concerns about some of the particular language in there and I'd be happy to work that difference out, if there is some concern about the vagueness of the language between now and Select File. But I would urge you to advance the bill over to Select File. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Harris, then Senator Warner, then Senator Higgins, then Senator Hoagland. Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, hello. I'll get used to it yet. I co-sponsored this bill with Senator Vickers two years ago. As a member of the Education Committee I was very interested in the ETV and the use of educational television and the changing of the name to the Telecommunications, the use of that for educational purposes. I'm very interested in seeing the Educational Telecommunications people having the ability to say to someone, not just a political person, but to someone who is trying to influence programming that they cannot do it. That is the main purpose of this language as far as my intent and my interpretation. If you will watch some of these programs on ETV, you remember they used to